

**Preface:**

The field of patient advocacy is represented by a diverse group of professionals who hail from a wide breadth and depth of backgrounds and educational experiences.

One goal of the PACB is to recognize the diversity of the practice. The following eligibility requirements and decisions were developed to meet that goal.

**BCPA = Board Certified Patient Advocate.** This is the credential that will be awarded to those who pass the examination.

<b>Criteria for Eligibility to Sit for the BCPA Exam leading to Patient Advocate Certification</b>	
<b>A. Education Requirement</b>	For the first four (4) testing cycles (approximately two years) there will be no education requirement to be eligible to sit for the exam.
<b>B. Patient Advocacy Experience / Education Requirement</b>	For the first four (4) testing cycles (approximately two years) there will be no proof of prior experience required to be eligible to sit for the exam.
<b>C. Other License or Certification Requirement</b>	For the first four (4) testing cycles (approximately two years) there will be no existing certification or license required to be eligible to sit for the exam.
<b>D. Citizenship Requirement</b>	There are no citizenship or country of origin requirements to be eligible to sit for the exam.
<b>E. Criminal Background Check Requirement</b>	No criminal background check will be required for certification, before or after the exam.  <i>The PACB recommends emphatically that all professional and aspiring advocates voluntarily undergo a background check and make the results public in order to garner trust among potential patient-clients.</i>

**The PACB reserves the right to amend the above described eligibility requirements.**

## Criteria for Eligibility to Sit for the BCPA Exam leading to Patient Advocate Certification

<b>F. Proof of ability to conduct the essential tasks of the profession</b>	A candidate's ability to conduct the essential tasks of the profession will be assessed through the exam itself. Exam questions will be based on the documents published on the <a href="http://www.PACBoard.org">www.PACBoard.org</a> website: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ethical Standards</li><li>• Competencies and Best Practices</li><li>• Definitions</li></ul>
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## Test Taking Process

<b>G. Application Process</b>	Application and payment will take place online directly with the Professional Testing Corporation (PTC).
<b>H. Cost to Sit for the Exam</b>	The cost to sit for the exam has not yet been determined.
<b>I. Testing Locations</b>	Testing itself will take place in one of the test centers located across the United States as determined by the Professional Testing Corporation. Testing will not take place online.
<b>J. Passing Score</b>	The passing score for the exam has not yet been determined.
<b>K. Can the test be postponed?</b>	Yes, the test may be postponed. Additional costs may be assessed by the Professional Testing Corporation.
<b>L. Can test be retaken in event of a failure?</b>	The test may be retaken up to three times. If a candidate fails a third time, he or she must wait at least one full year before taking the test again.

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## Recertification

<b>M. How often does BCPA need to recertify</b>	Certified Patient Advocates will be required to recertify every three years.
<b>N. Recertification Requirements</b>	Recertification requirements can be met either by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. retaking the exam</li><li>2. earning 30 CEUs, including 6 mandatory ethics hours</li></ol>

End

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